

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BARRAN 00155 022116Z
ACTION SCS-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 L-03 HA-05 H-02 PA-02
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-----002228 022123Z /21

O 021400Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL BARRANQUILLA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 477
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

UNCLAS BARRANQUILLA 0155

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CASC CO (STRIVER,GREGORY)
SUBJECT:W/W: GREGORY STRIVER 11/4/52 OHIO

CARACAS FOR LEGAT

1. CONOFF VISITED BATALLON CORDOBA,COLOMBIAN ARMY BASE AT SANTA MARTA,ON MAY 1, AND SPOKE WITH GREGORY STRIVER, AMCIT WHO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED MARCH 15 AND RELEASED WHEN THE FARMHOUSE WHERE HE WAS HELD WAS RAIDED BY COLOMBIAN ARMY PERSONNEL ON APRIL 29. STRIVER WAS IN GOOD HEALTH AND SPIRITS AND SAID HE HAS BEEN TREATED EXCELLENTLY BY ARMY OFFICERS AND HAS BEEN IN CONTACT BY PHONE WITH HIS PARENTS.

2. ACCORDING TO STRIVER,HE ARRIVED IN COLOMBIA O/A MARCH 2, AT BOGOTA,AND WENT TO CARTAGENA, WHERE HE MET A SPANISH WOMAN WHO SUGGESTED THEY VISIT SANTA MARTA. IN SANTA MARTA,ON MARCH 15, STRIVER WAS IN A TAXI WHICH WAS ASSAULTED BY KIDNAPPER,WITH HELP OF TAXI DRIVER AND STRIVER S SPANISH GIRLDRIEND,AND HE WAS TAKEN TO A FARMHOUSE,CHAINED TO A BED,AND HELD FOR FORTY-FIVE DAYS WHILE HIS KIDNAPPERS TRIED TO ARRANGE A RAMSOM PAYMENT. IN THE MORNING APRIL 29, GOC ARMY PERSONNEL RAIDED THE FARMHOUSE,UNAWARE OF STRIVER S
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KIDNAPPING AND CAPTIVITY,AND STRIVER WAS FREED. HE IS NOW AT BATALLON CORDOBA ARMY BASE,WHERE ARMY OFFICIALS WISH TO QUESTION HIM CONCERNING HIS KIDNAPPERS,IN ORDER TO MAKE LEGAL CASE AGAINST THEM.

3. WHILE AT BATALLON CORDOBA,CONOFF SPOKE WITH COL. KITCHEN,BASE COMMANDER,CAPTAIN GARCIA,OFFICER WHO LED

RAID ON HOUSE WHERE STRIVER WAS BEING HELD, MAJOR BERNAL, ARMY INTELLIGENCE INVESTIGATOR, AND DR. BRUGES, MILITARY JUDGE HANDLING CASE. KITCHEN TOLD CONOFF THEY ARE KEEPING STRIVER AT ARMY BASE FOR HIS PROTECTION AND TO OBTAIN INFORMATION FROM HIM, AND THEY EXPECT HE WILL BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE WITHIN A FEW DAYS. STRIVER TOLD CONOFF THAT, THOUGH HE IS ANXIOUS TO LEAVE, HE WANTS TO COOPERATE WITH ARMY AUTHORITIES TO SEE ALL OF HIS KIDNAPPERS CAUGHT.

4. CONOFF FIRST MADE AWARE OF CASE MORNING MAY 1, WHEN LEGAT TELEPHONED FROM BOGOTA TO ASK THAT CONOFF VERIFY STORY THAT STRIVER HAD BEEN FREED AND WAS BEING HELD AT NAVY BASE IN SANTA MARTA. THAT MORNING, HOWEVER, STORY WAS PUBLISHED ON FRONT PAGE OF EL TIEMPO, GIVING BACKGROUND OF ENTIRE CASE, AND EXPLAINING THAT ARMY HAD RESCUED KIDNAP VICTIM.

5. STRIVER GAVE WRITTEN AUTHORIZATION UNDER PRIVACY ACT FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING HIS SITUATION TO BE GIVEN TO HIS PARENTS, MR. AND MRS. W. F. STRIVER, 2332 S.W. SEYMOUR DR., PORTLAND, OREGON, TEL: (503)245-3298, TO SENATORS/CONGRESSMEN, TO INFORMATION MEDIA, AND TO A FRIEND, A.K. ISA, 1306 S.W. WASHINGTON ST., PORTLAND, OREGON, TEL: (503)224-1135.

6. FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WILL BE REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT. FRANK

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